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Proposed Attorneys for Debtors

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - LOS ANGELES DIVISION

Smarter Building Technologies Alliance, Inc.,
*et al.*¹

Debtors.

Tax I.D. No.: 46-5022450

Case No. 21-18337-BR

Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)

(Joint Administration Requested with
Cases 21-18338-BR & 21-18339-BR)

**DECLARATION OF BENJAMIN
BUCHANAN, THE DEBTORS'
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, IN
SUPPORT OF CERTAIN FIRST
DAY PLEADINGS**

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases are: Smarter Building Technologies Alliance, Inc.; Integrated Advanced Controls, LLC; and Direct Discount Lighting, LLC. The corporate headquarters and the mailing address for the debtors is 6700 E. Pacific Coast Hwy, Suite 235, Long Beach, CA 90803.

1
2 I, Benjamin Buchanan, hereby declare and state as follows:

3 1. I am the Chief Executive Officer of Smarter Building Technologies Alliance, Inc.
4 (“SBT”) and the authorized representative of Integrated Advanced Controls, LLC (“IAC”) and
5 Direct Discount Lighting, LLC (“DDL” and together with SBT and IAC, the “Debtors”) in the
6 above-captioned chapter 11 subchapter V cases (the “Bankruptcy Cases”). I have served
7 as Chief Executive Officer of SBT since its inception in 2018. I additionally serve as a
8 member of the board of directors of SBT and own 25% of the voting stock in SBT.

9 2. On October 29, 2021 (the “Petition Date”), each of the Debtors filed a voluntary
10 petition (collectively, the “Petitions”) with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central
11 District of California (the “Court”) for relief under chapter 11 subchapter V of title 11 of the
12 United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”). The Debtors are also contemporaneously
13 herewith filing certain administrative motions (collectively, the “First Day Administrative
14 Motions”), as described below. I am submitting this declaration on behalf of the Debtors in
15 support of the First Day Administrative Motions.

16 3. Except as otherwise indicated, all facts set forth in this declaration are based
17 upon my personal knowledge, my discussions with members of the Debtors’ management
18 team, advisors, and service providers, my review of relevant documents and information
19 concerning the Debtors’ operations, financing affairs, and restructuring initiatives, or my
20 opinions based upon my experience and knowledge. If called upon to testify, I could and
21 would testify competently to the facts set forth in this declaration.

22 **FIRST DAY MOTIONS**

23 4. Contemporaneously herewith, the Debtors are filing certain First Day
24 Administrative Motions seeking orders granting forms of relief intended to facilitate the
25 efficient administration of these Bankruptcy Cases. I believe that the relief requested in the
26 First Day Administrative Motions is appropriately tailored and necessary to the success of
27 the Bankruptcy Cases.
28

1 5. The First Day Administrative Motions include a Joint Administration Motion and
2 a Schedules Extension Motion. Subsequently, the Debtors may also file certain operational
3 first day motions, including, but not limited to, a Utilities Motion, an Insurance Motion, a Cash
4 Management Motion, and a Wage Motion. In support of such operational motions, as well
5 as the Petitions themselves, the Debtors may file a supplemental declaration.

6 6. I have consulted with the Debtors' advisors regarding the First Day
7 Administrative Motions, and I have reviewed and understand the relief requested in each
8 motion. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the factual statements contained in each of
9 the First Day Motions are true and accurate, and each such factual statement is incorporated
10 in this declaration by reference. Specifically, I believe that joint administration of the
11 Bankruptcy Cases is important to streamlining these Bankruptcy Cases, as opposed to
12 having pleadings filed on three separate dockets, which may also prejudice creditors and
13 other parties in interest seeking information about the Debtors and the progress of these
14 Bankruptcy Cases. Further, as discussed in the Schedules Extension Motion, in consultation
15 with the Debtors' advisors, the Debtors are working diligently on a number of parallel work
16 streams in order to ensure a smooth operational transition into these Bankruptcy Cases and
17 effectuate a potential strategic transaction. Accordingly, affording the Debtors an additional
18 14-days to file their schedules of assets and liabilities and statement of financial affairs in
19 necessary under the circumstances.

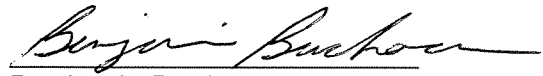
20 7. At bottom, I believe the relief requested in each of the First Day Motions is
21 necessary, in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates and creditors, and all parties in
22 interest, and will avoid disruption to the business and preserve value during these
23 Bankruptcy Cases.

24 8. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in this declaration and in the First Day
25 Motions, this Court should grant the requested relief.

26 *[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]*
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1 9. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the
2 foregoing is true and correct to the best of my information and belief.

3 Dated: November 1, 2021
4 Los Angeles, California


5 Benjamin Buchanan
6 Chief Executive Officer
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